

California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Robert Glazier
Jerry Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
Fax 916-653-2611
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VETERANS SECRETARY TOM JOHNSON URGES CALIFORNIANS TO REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR AND TO HONOR ITS HEROES

SACRAMENTO – December 6, 2004 – Tomorrow, December 7, marks what President Franklin D. Roosevelt referred to as, "December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy," before a joint session of the U.S. Congress the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii brought the United States into World War II.

"Each American should take a few moments this Tuesday to honor those brave servicemen and women who answered our nation's call and to thank them for defending and upholding our treasured liberties," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. "I also encourage our World War II veterans to participate in the Veterans History Project or the Stories of Service program, both of which are excellent programs to share their experiences with our youth so that new generations can learn about this important time in our history. We will always be indebted for their sacrifices and we will never forget their dedication to the cause of freedom."

Public Law 103-308, also known as House Joint Resolution 131, designates December 7 each year as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Several events are scheduled throughout California to remember those who fought and died on that day. Among them are the following:

On Tuesday, from 8 am to 9 am at the Ontario Convention Center, at the 2004 National Convention of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, there will be a dedication of a portion of Interstate Highway 10 as the Pearl Harbor Memorial Highway. With the addition of California's Highway 10 segment, the Pearl Harbor

Memorial Highway stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

San Diego area Pearl Harbor survivors are scheduled to gather at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center in Balboa Park, 2115 Park Blvd. Survivors are scheduled to toss a wreath into the bay from the aircraft carrier museum Midway at the Broadway Pier at 9:55 a.m.

On Tuesday, the Mount Diablo Chapter of Pearl Harbor Survivors will hold its annual ceremony at the summit of Mount Diablo by lighting a beacon in remembrance of lives lost in the fateful attack that began the United States' involvement in World War II. The ceremony is set to begin at 4:55 pm.

Pearl Harbor Survivors in the Inyo/Kern/Ridgecrest area will be honored Tuesday during the fifth annual community breakfast. The community is invited to attend the breakfast, which will be 7:30 a.m. at BPO Elks Lodge 1913, 201 E. Church St.

World War II veterans will be remembered on Pearl Harbor Day during a Tuesday morning ceremony at the Freedom Monument Veterans Memorial in Santa Maria. The event begins at 11 a.m. at the Maldonado Youth Center, 600 S. McClelland St.

On Thursday, December 9, the members of Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Chapter 10, which covers the Central Valley area from Merced to Lodi, will gather in Manteca for their annual Christmas party. The event will be held at Perko's Restaurant on East Highway 120 on the corner of Button Avenue.

On Friday, December 10, the Napa Elks are hosting a Pearl Harbor Dinner for the residents of the Veterans Home of California – Yountville at the Napa Elks Lodge at 5 p.m.